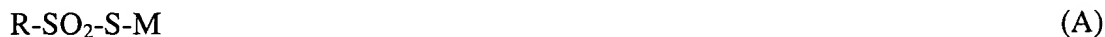


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 08/915,683

98
6/16/03
~~0.2 μ m to not more than 1.5 μ m and the average grain thickness b perpendicular to the main~~
plane of the external shell thereof is from not less than 0.04 μ m to not more than 0.30 μ m;

wherein the thickness of grains are so uniform that the coefficient of variation of thickness is not more than 30%; and

wherein the core of said core/shell grains are composed of silver bromide and are subjected to chemical sensitization in the presence of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the following formula (A), (B) and (C) and a gold sensitizer in combination under the condition that substantially no thiosulfate ion is present during the chemical sensitization:



wherein R, R¹ and R² may be the same or different and each represents an aliphatic group, aromatic group or heterocyclic group; M represents a cation; L represents a divalent linking group; m represents 0 or an integer of 1; the compounds of the formula (A), (B) and (C) may be each in the form of a polymer containing, as a repeating unit, a divalent group derived from the structures represented by the formulae (A), (B) and (C), respectively; and R, R¹, R² and L may be optionally connected to each other to form a ring.